

Medical school gets high marks from accreditation authorities

Julia Necheff

The accrediting bodies that oversee the quality of medical schools in Canada and the United States have given the University of Alberta medical school a solid "A."

The Committee on the Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools and the Liaison Committee on Medical Education have voted to continue full accreditation of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry's MD degree program. The committee, which is based in the United States, grants accreditation to both American and Canadian medical schools.

"This decision is a strong endorsement of the excellent quality of our MD program, and confirms we are one of the finest medical schools in Canada," said Philip Baker, dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry.

"I'm absolutely delighted that our program has achieved such a positive result," Baker said. "This comes down to a lot of hard work from many individuals within the faculty and our partner organizations, particularly Alberta Health Services."

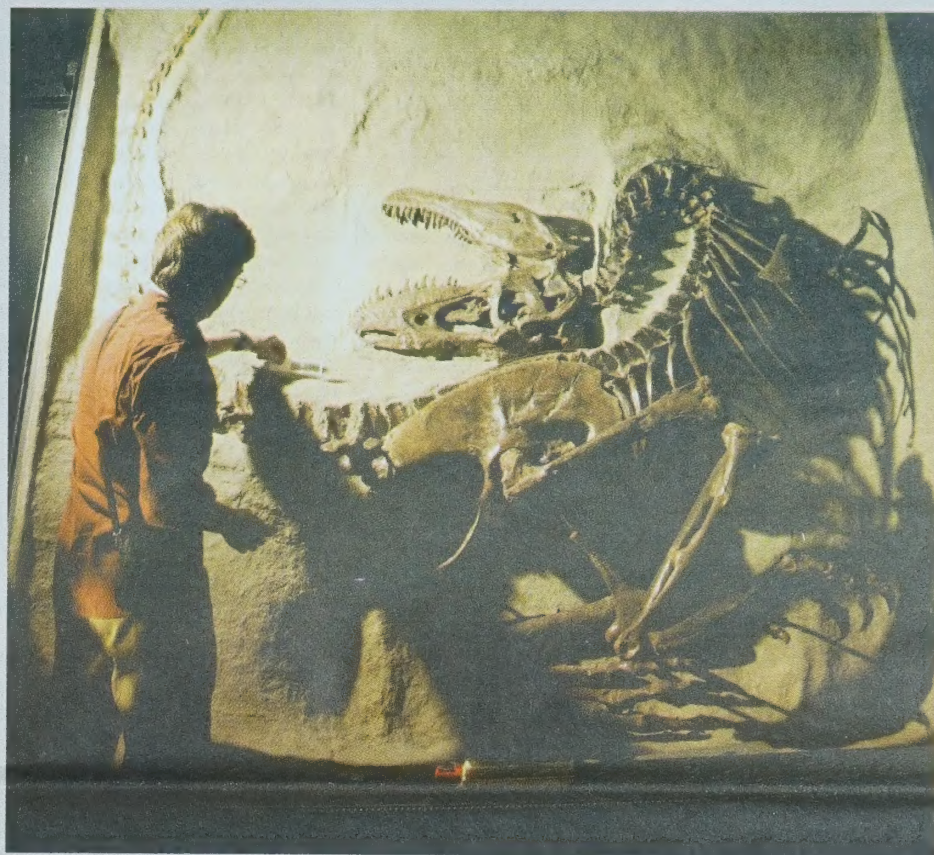
"I want to acknowledge the leadership of Fraser Brenneis (vice-dean of education) and Kent Stobart (associate dean of undergraduate medical education) and their respective teams who worked tirelessly to ensure this excellent outcome," the dean added.

The two accreditation committees work in tandem to conduct regular, in-depth reviews of the Canadian schools. Their latest decision on the U of A medical school follows an intensive examination of the MD program that took place last spring. A "survey team" of senior medical school officials from other universities were appointed by CACMS and LCME to visit the faculty in May.

Continued on page 2

Cooperative subject matter

Scott Persons takes measurements of tail bones from fossil of a gorgosaurus, a close relative of T. rex. Persons has found that the T. rex probably moved a lot quicker than previously thought. Story on Page 2.



U of A researchers mine ASTech gold

Michael Brown

Robert Burrell, chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Alberta, was one of six University of Alberta researchers who won Alberta Science and Technology Leadership in Alberta Foundation awards at a ceremony at the Shaw Conference Centre Nov. 12.

Burrell, the inventor of Acticoat, a silver-based wound dressing used the world over to speed healing, won in the category of Outstanding Leadership in Alberta Technology. Burrell's invention has saved countless lives, including some victims of the 2002 Bali terrorist bombing who arrived at Australian emergency rooms while Burrell happened to be on the continent lecturing on the virtues of Acticoat.

"It was almost overwhelming to see the dressing being used under such tragic conditions, but there was a tremendous satisfaction in seeing the results of its use," said Burrell. "Many people can alter the bottom line for a company, but very few

people can alter the outcomes of people's lives. I am lucky to be one of the few."

Other winners of ASTech Awards included John Vederas, professor in the Department of Chemistry, who won in the category of Outstanding Leadership in Alberta Science. Vederas is an internationally recognized leader in the fields of bio-organic and medicinal chemistry. Applications developed from his research range from cholesterol-lowering drugs and natural food preservatives to medicines for combating viral infections and preventing premature births. His work has helped to improve countless lives in Alberta and around the world.

John Acorn, professor in the Department of Renewable Resources and the School of Energy and the

Environment, was named for his Excellence in Science and Technology Public Awareness. Affectionately named "The Nature Nut," Acorn has inspired hundreds of thousands of curious minds to explore science over a 30-year career as educator, journalist, author, television host, photographer, naturalist and scientist. He created and hosted Acorn the Nature Nut, a popular television series and he is a prolific author of books about nature, paleontology and bird- and insect-specific field guides.

Sirish Shah, a professor in the Department of Chemical and Materi-

als Engineering, together with his associate Phanindra Jampana, won in the category for Innovation in Oil Sands Research sponsored by Syncrude Canada Ltd. This collaborative research project between Suncor Energy, the University of Alberta, Matrikon and iCORE is concerned with the development of a novel, non-intrusive and reliable sensor for interface

detection in separation cells. The two developed an image sensor to help reduce the environmental impacts, while improving bitumen recovery and revenues by cutting the amount of bitumen inadvertently flowing into tailings ponds by 50 per cent.

Lloyd Dosdall, professor in the Department of Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science, received the Innovation in Agricultural Science award sponsored by Dow AgroSciences Canada Inc.



Robert Burrell

"Many people can alter the bottom line for a company, but very few people can alter the outcomes of people's lives. I am lucky to be one of the few."

Robert Burrell

Continued on page 3

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folio

Volume 48 Issue 6

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folio's mandate is to serve as a credible news source for the university community by communicating accurate and timely information about issues, programs, people and events and by serving as a forum for discussion and debate. folio is published 23 times per year.

The editor reserves the right to limit, select, edit and position submitted copy and advertisements. Views expressed in folio do not necessarily reflect university policy. folio contents may be printed with acknowledgement.

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Kule Institute for Advanced Study marks the arts' return to prominence

Michael Davies-Venn

Three years ago, University of Alberta Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Carl Amrhein sent his colleagues in the Faculty of Arts on a reflective journey. After a critical year-long dialogue centred on where the arts fit in the 21st century, they emerged with a bold vision.

"Coming out of that process, we recommended that the university create a large-scale, intellectually animated research institute within the arts faculty," said George Pavlich, associate vice-president (research). "Who could ever have imagined that scarcely two years after presenting the recommendation to the Arts Faculty Council, we would be celebrating the opening of such an institute, the Kule Institute for Advanced Study. The outcome is an excellent example of what can be done when people are committed to transforming a vision into reality."

Pavlich was speaking at the Nov. 4 launch of the newly minted Kule Institute, which was made possible by a \$4-million endowment by long-time university friends and visionaries, Peter and Doris Kule.

"The Faculty of Arts has the Wirth

Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies and the Prince Takamado Research Institute, among others," said Amrhein. "It now has a new, very large jewel in the crown of interdisciplinary centres in the faculty, the Kule Institute for Advanced Study. And for that I would like to thank Peter and Doris for making our crown shine that little bit better, that little bit brighter."

The Kule's donation paved the way for a collaborative funding agreement between the Kules and the U of A. It will see the establishment of an endowment of \$12 million for the purpose of advancing the high humanitarian ideals of the founding donors and the U of A's commitment to leading research and creative activity, said the institute's founding director, Jerry Varsava, and that it is an example of the growing and powerful trend of supporting socially responsive and socially engaged research, he says, rejecting the view that such is sometimes called "blue-sky research."

"Tying highly imaginative intellectual inquiry to practical social concerns is doing nothing more than acknowledging the link between the blue sky and the highly populated

and sometimes troubled world that it encircles," he said.

"The institute will be a champion of thematically based research, promoting innovation and impact with emphasis on understanding better the human condition and indeed ameliorating that condition where it finds itself challenged or beleaguered and in a need of freshening or renovation or change."

The Kule Institute for Advanced Study is the latest in a long list of initiatives at the U of A supported by the Kules, whose generosity has made possible, among other things, the Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore, the Kule Chair of Ukrainian Ethnography and the Kule Ukrainian Canadian Studies Centre.

Peter Kule was born in Ukraine, Doris born to Ukrainian immigrants. He, it is said, was doing calculus when his classmates were still struggling with algebra, which led to his becoming an accountant. She became a teacher after training at the U of A. Both are retired, but Varsava says the Kules continue to work tirelessly for their causes.

"Peter and Doris have both adopted new careers as philanthropists, as benefactors, as doers of public good and as community builders, whose generosity

has supported all manner of research and contributed to the preservation of cultural memory and of cultural pride in the Ukrainian Canadian Community," he said.

Their approach is captured in the new institute's motto: "Advancing humanity, lifting the human spirit." The motto says a lot of what the university expects from the Kule institute, said Faculty of Arts Dean Lesley Cormack.

"We are at a moment in our history where the vast potential of the liberal arts, especially in interdisciplinary ways, can really return to the great problems that are affecting our societies today," said Cormack. "The Kule Institute will not just be another place where research can be done. This will be a place where important, transformative, society-changing research will be done, where we truly will be advancing humanity and lifting the human spirit." ■

Accreditation

continued from page 1

There are about 130 nationally accepted quality standards that medical schools in the U.S. and Canada must meet in order to achieve and maintain accreditation. These standards relate to the institutional setting, what is being taught and how well the curriculum is structured and managed, admissions policies, services for students, the learning environment, the faculty members, finances and the facilities.

The accrediting bodies say the U of A medical school is in full compliance with all standards but one. It is "in partial compliance" with the standard that relates to how well residents are prepared for teaching medical students. However, the accreditation committees noted that the school is already well on its way to achieving full compliance with this standard. Residents "are intensively aware of the educational objectives... (and) are prepared for their roles as teachers," they concluded. The survey team reported: "The students interviewed during the survey visit were uniformly enthusiastic about the involvement of and quality of the resident teaching."

All that remains to achieve full compliance with this standard is for the faculty to complete its central monitoring system of resident participation in teaching workshops.

"The very successful outcome of the May 2010 (accreditation) site visit is strong validation of the faculty's hard work over the last 24 months," Brenneis said, adding that the faculty will use the partial compliance question as impetus to improve. "Building on the previous work of a number of faculty members, Kent Stobart and his team will now move our MD program forward, embracing the latest in literature and curriculum innovation." ■

T. rex's tail the key to its hunting prowess

Brian Murphy

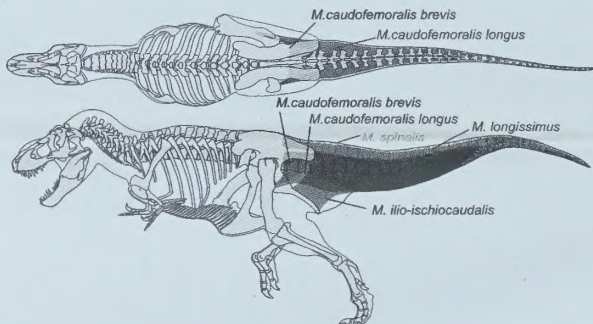
Tyrannosaurus rex, the iconic meat-eating dinosaur, is known for its unusual body shape: a big heavy head, short arms and a long thick tail. Many dinosaur experts have believed the purpose of the dinosaur's tail was to act like the heavy end of a teeter-totter, keeping the animal from falling forward on its face.

Now, a University of Alberta researcher has given the dinosaur a makeover and says it's a mistake to believe T. rex's tail was just "junk in the trunk."

U of A graduate student Scott Persons has shown the raptor's tail actually housed powerful muscles, which could have made it one of the fastest moving hunters of its time.

"I compared the tails of modern-day reptiles like crocodiles and Komodo dragons to T. rex's tail," said Persons. He found all animals in his study had something in common: "The biggest muscles in the tail are attached to upper leg bones and they provide the power stroke, which allows for fast forward movement," he said.

But Persons found the skeletal structure of T. rex's tail gave it an advantage the others animals didn't have. The tails of both T. rex and modern animals are extensions of the vertebral column. Rib bones attached along the length of the vertebrae give the tail its strength and shape. Persons found that the rib bones attached to the tails of crocodiles



A drawing of the tail muscles Person believes enable T. rex to be among the fastest moving predators of its time.

and Komodo dragons actually limit the size of muscles along the animals' tails, but that the ribs in the tail of T. rex are located much higher on the tail.

"That leaves much more room along the lower end of the tail for the powerful caudofemoralis muscles to bulk-up and expand," said Persons, explaining that, without rib bones to limit the size of the caudofemoralis muscles, they became a robust power-plant enabling T. rex to run.

Persons' extensive measurements of T. rex bones and computer modeling show previous estimates of the muscle mass in the dinosaur's tail were underestimated by as much as 45 per cent.

"That led many earlier T. rex researchers to believe the animal lacked the necessary muscle mass for running," said Persons. That perceived lack of speed caused some scientists to doubt T. rex's hunting ability and cast Tyrannosaurus

in the role of a scavenger, only able to feed on previously dead animals.

Persons' says the makeover on T. rex's athleticism (and rear end) shows the Cretaceous predator was one of the fastest hunters in its ecosystem.

An exact measure of T. rex's speed has always been tricky, says Persons. Typically researchers measure the distance between the placement of a dinosaur's feet in the few places where actual footprints of T. rex and other dinosaurs were left behind. But Person says those footprints were left in soft, wet ground, and it's not likely a dinosaur would have been moving at full speed on that kind of terrain.

"We're not sure of its actual maximum speed," said Persons. "But I'm confident T. rex was as fast as any Olympic-calibre sprinter and it could likely run down any other large dinosaur in its ecosystem." ■

University's South Campus sector plan goes public Nov. 29

Michael Brown

The University of Alberta will hold a public information open house regarding its South Campus sectors plan on Nov. 29.

Back in 2001, the U of A went through the process of developing a long-range development plan as the first step to envisioning what the U of A will look like in 50 years.

Part of that plan was to divide the

entire university campus into sectors, with each sector to undergo its own planning process. The open house will focus on sectors 12, 13 and 14, the sum of which accounts for the U of A's South Campus.

The U of A held a previous open house in November 2008. What makes this particular open house interesting is Edmonton's bid for Expo 2017, which, if successful, would mean extensive development of the South Campus.

Bart Becker, associate vice-president of facilities and operations, says the university has plans to create space for 15,000 students and 3,000-4,000 faculty and staff, with a concentration of development around the LRT, while keeping the campus sustainable, allowing for recreation and park space so the people in the surrounding area view South Campus as a destination.

"As we wrap up the sector plans for South Campus, the open house on

Nov. 29 will provide opportunities for both the university community and the public at large to view information and share their responses to the proposed general development of the university's South Campus," said Becker. "We look forward to profiling these plans for the university's future and hearing from our students, faculty, staff and the public."

The South Campus sectors plan will be held at the Campus' Saville Sports Centre gymnasium (11520 - 65 Ave.). ■

Researcher examines methods to solve oilsands tailings challenge

Richard Cairney

When it comes to tackling tailings ponds in Alberta's oilsands, University of Alberta civil engineering professor G. Ward Wilson has a mental picture of what the ponds should one day look like: wilderness.

Getting there is a challenge that Wilson is eager to shoulder. Wilson is a geotechnical engineer whose research career has focused on mine waste management around the world for the past 25 years, is eager to shoulder.

"Every mine around the world has tailings," said Wilson. The most recent and catastrophic reminder of this is the Hungarian aluminum tailings disaster, in which an estimated one million cubic metres of caustic sludge spilled over an area of 40 square kilometres. In Alberta, the oilsands industry is tackling its own tailings issues.

"Everyone in the mining business has similar challenges," he said. "But the oilsands industry wants—more than anybody—to move from wet tailings systems to dry landscapes."

The industry uses water to separate bitumen from sand—and one byproduct of this extraction process is wet

tailings. The tailings and process water are contained in man-made ponds. For years, researchers have been working on ways to reduce or eliminate the use of water from the separation process.

Progress has been made in reducing the amount of fresh water used in the separation process by recycling tailings water, but researchers are looking for ways to virtually eliminate water use—and to figure out what to do with existing tailings ponds.

That's where Wilson comes in. He says the first step in recovering land the ponds now occupy is to de-water the tailings. One method being investigated is called "land farming" where mature fine tailings—basically the fine clays that settled on the bottom and sides of the tailings ponds—are poured in thin layers onto a flat surface and allowed to dry. Other methods being investigated include using centrifugal force to wring water from the tailings. Special flocculants are also added to the tailings to help fine clay particles bond to one another, separating them from the water.

Ultimately, Wilson's research will enable industry to develop stable land forms that encapsulate the de-watered tailings. The dried-out clays could be



Engineering professor G. Ward Wilson, right, at an advanced waste management research site in New Guinea.

covered by the topsoil that was moved aside to mine the bitumen in the first place.

"It will be a whole new earth structure—a whole new land form," said Wilson. "You want it to be treed, stable and resistant to erosion, so that you don't have bits of it slipping away. It also has to be physically, chemically and ecologically stable."

Wilson says the oilsands are a valuable resource that has brought prosperity to the province and the country. But as is the case with any resource industry, from forestry to mining, industry needs

to clean up after itself.

"You can't scrape up square kilometres of land and not restore it," he said. "And frankly, we've already done things on this scale—in southern Saskatchewan, vast tracts of land were used for coal mining that have subsequently been turned back into farm land."

"I am very optimistic that we can solve the challenges associated with the de-watering of oilsands tailings, especially through research partnerships with the oil sands companies, government agencies and our consulting engineering firms here in the province." ■

ASTech awards

continued from page 1



Peter Gill

Dosdall is an internationally recognized entomologist who has developed and released new canola germplasm that is available to agribusiness and farmers and proven to have resistance to infestation.

Finally, for the fourth year in a row, a student in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry has been named a "Leader of Tomorrow" by the ASTech Leadership Foundation.

Peter Gill, a joint MD/PhD student at the U of A, and a 2009 recipient of a Rhodes Scholarship to the University of Oxford, won the ASTech award in the category of Leaders of Tomorrow.

Gill's research is looking at ways for the western health-care systems to monitor quality of care for children. Currently standards are to look at vaccination rates and child mortality, an approach that Gill says doesn't work for Canada because most children get vaccinations and the mortality rate is very low.

Other U of A researchers nominated for awards included Bernard Thebaud, professor in the Department of Physiology; David Wishart, professor in the Department of Biological Sciences; biological scientists Phillip Fedorak and Julia Foght; Pierre Boulanger, professor in the Department of Computing Science; Faculty of Engineering professor emeritus Daniel Smith; and Arturo Sanchez-Azofeifa, professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

The ASTech Leadership Foundation was created to celebrate and promote the achievements of Alberta's scientific and technological communities. ■

Researchers funded to strengthen foundation for better health

Michael Brown

Two University of Alberta health researchers have been named as part of a \$3 million federal government funding announcement aimed at finding solutions to some of today's most pressing physical-activity and childhood-obesity questions.

Donna Goodwin, professor in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, will receive \$147,916 over three years from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to examine the experience of disabled persons making the transition from rehabilitation to community fitness programs, while Michael Stickland, professor in the Department of Medicine, will receive \$351,474 over three years to investigate the physiological effect of exercise on patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Goodwin's CIHR proposal, entitled Transition to Community Fitness Programs for Persons with Disabilities Following Rehabilitation, outlined a research regimen that will take a close look at the intersection of the constructs of dignity and transition as

people with physical disabilities leave hospital rehabilitation programs and return to their communities.

Goodwin says she specifically wants to look at the personal experiences of people with disabilities undergoing transition to community fitness programs, the perspective of fitness centre staff as they work to accommodate people with disabilities in their settings and the significance of disability peer mentors in sustained community fitness participation.

"The proposed studies will provide a unique contribution to our understanding of the relationship between dignity and the transition from rehabilitation to community fitness facilities for people with physical disabilities," said Goodwin, adding the outcome of her research will be of interest for everyone from patients to fitness profession-

als. "The outcome of the proposed studies will be increased health for persons with disabilities through an increased knowledge of the transition process and how the current gap between rehabilitation and participation in community based fitness programs can be bridged."

“As the fourth leading cause of death of Canadians, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is a significant burden.”

Michael Stickland

tially reversible airway obstruction, with significant systemic consequences.

"As the fourth leading cause of death of Canadians, [this disease] is a significant burden," said Stickland. "Not all smokers get it, but of those who do, they are two to three times more likely to die of heart disease than smokers

who don't have lung disease. This indicates that it is something specific about the lung damage that is causing cardiovascular disease."

More critical to Stickland's proposal, entitled Carotid Chemoreception and Sympathetic Nervous Activity in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, is the exercise intolerance of COPD patients.

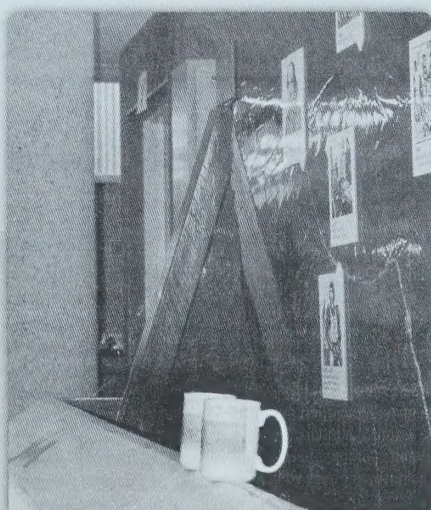
Stickland says a hallmark of COPD is an inability to do exercise at a level that is one third to one quarter of what the average person should be able to do.

"Working within the Division of Pulmonary Medicine, the Centre for Lung Health and the Alberta Cardiovascular and Stroke Research Centre within the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute, my team wants to find out what is contributing to the increased cardiovascular dysfunction in COPD patients, how cardiovascular dysfunction contributes to the patient's exercise intolerance and how exercise training through rehabilitation improves the cardiovascular consequences of COPD." ■

Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Debbie Feisst, whose name was drawn as part of folio's Nov. 5 "Are You a Winner?" contest, after she correctly identified the object in the photo as the abstract figurative sculpture titled "Disciples" by Patrick William Morin, a graduate from the U of A's fine arts program, located on the west side of St. Stephen's College. For identifying the photo in question, Feisst has won a coveted Butterdome butter dish.

Up for grabs this week is a pair of coffee mugs courtesy of the Animal Science 200 Principles of Animal Agriculture class, which puts on the Heifer In Your Tank production. The next showing of this wildly-funny-yet-informative class project is Nov. 23 at the Myer Horowitz Theatre



starting at 7 p.m. To win, simply identify where on campus the mugs in the above photo are located. Email your correct answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Friday, Nov. 26, and you will be entered into the draw.

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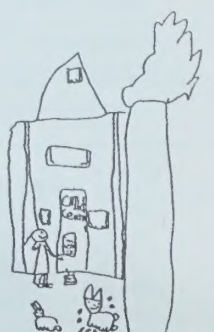
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New chief development officer swinging for the fence

Michael Brown

In 1957, two storied New York baseball teams, the New York Giants and the Brooklyn Dodgers, pulled up stakes and headed west in search of the sunny shores of California.

Born in Guyana but having grown up in Brooklyn decades after the Dodgers left for Los Angeles, O'Neil Outar, University of Alberta's new chief development officer, spent his undergraduate history thesis at Tufts University trying to measure the impact the move had on his hometown.

What he found was a study in the human condition, a measure for progress and growth, and a career using big ideas to create change.

"The emergence of those teams in California changed for those cities how they viewed themselves, and for the rest of the country, how they were viewed," said Outar. Having grown up in Brooklyn, Outar says one can argue that it has never been the same since its cherished baseball team left.

"In many ways, when you look at the 2017 Expo bid, it is very interesting what a seminal event like this would do to put Edmonton on the map," said Outar. "It would provide the university with the kind of identity and visibility you couldn't buy with all the tourism marketing in the world."

The idea of the expo coming to Edmonton is the kind of big thinking that Outar says he has been encouraged by since he was brought aboard as the U of A's chief development officer in August to lead the fundraising enterprise and jointly manage the Office of Alumni Af-

fairs. "Big ideas beget big gifts," he says. And big ideas and big gifts are nothing new to Outar.

Prior to joining the university, Outar served in a variety of senior leadership roles at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and worked closely with its president and senior leaders to develop their messaging, volunteer leadership and fundraising model.

In his most recent role as senior director of MIT's global initiatives, he led the launch of institute-wide activities in China and India, and increased private philanthropic support from outside the United States by more than six-fold. As senior director of institutional initiatives, he managed the fundraising of more than US\$1.25 billion in support of energy and the environment, integrative sciences and student life and learning. During the US\$2.2 billion Campaign for MIT, Outar served as a senior major gifts officer, and managed the fundraising of more than US\$250 million.

Outar's position as chief development officer is not a new role at the university. What has changed, however, is the administration's perspective on the importance of private philanthropic support.

The portfolio now reports directly to the president because of its growing long-term importance, says Outar. "If you think of how quickly and dynamically the university has grown in the last decade, the ambitions of the university

have outstripped the funding that will come from government."

Outar says that, over the last number of years, anywhere from 60 to 80 per cent of the U of A's philanthropic

funding has come from industry or foundations. He explains he wants to preserve these dollar values and continue to grow them where he can, but says the reality of fundraising is that individual wealth is a much larger portion of the charitable sector, with approximately 85 per cent of the \$21B charitable sector

in Canada coming from individual philanthropy. "When I got to MIT, two-thirds of gifts in the prior campaign came from foundations and industry, with concerted investments during the recent campaign more than two-thirds came from individuals."

Outar says his first step is to elevate and institutionalize the Office of Development & Alumni Affairs portfolio. The second is to develop a strategy and structure to put the University



O'Neil Outar

Leading a university a matter of balance

Michael Brown

Running a bottom-up organization, putting into action the will of the faculties while still managing to lead effectively, is a balancing act.

A team of seven senior administrators from a range of backgrounds is directly responsible for developing procedures, regulations and guidelines, and overseeing all the university's operations.

At the top of the U of A's senior administration sits the president and vice-chancellor. Appointed by the board of governors, the president is the key liaison to both the General Faculties Council and the board of governors and sits as university's chief executive officer. The president is responsible for range of roles that are set out in Alberta's Post-Secondary Learning Act.

The president oversees over the operational and fiscal management of the university, delegating internal operation to the provost and vice-president (academic). To that end the president builds a senior executive team committed to fulfilling the vision, goals and priorities necessary to ensuring long-term sustainability.

At the core of any leadership is the creation of a vision that others don't just follow but believe in. The U of A president creates and stages a vision that will build and advance the U of A as an exceptional institution.

on a path toward building an endowment and annual fund-raising that is comparable to the U of A's aspirant peers. He says his immediate fundraising targets are to raise private philanthropic support from the \$108 million raised last year to at least \$150 million per year over the next four-and-a-half years. After that, Outar says anything is possible.

"Our peer universities are thinking of fundraising campaigns in the billions," said Outar. "We aspire to compete at that level and we can. In addition, the World Wide Web has created a platform for the University to compete in the global idea market place. There are people who are not alumni but are watching the University of Alberta and looking for opportunities to support the University as it takes a leadership role in addressing some of the intractable problems that the world now faces."

Outar says one of his first challenges is to reposition the organization to take advantage of the opportunities in engaging individuals, especially successful alumni.

This is not to say big gifts and storied fundraising campaigns are strictly the domain of centuries-old American

universities. Outar says that, over the last eight months, the U of A has received five gifts of \$10 million, one of almost the same amount, and—of the six gifts—five of those were from individuals. "The U of A has moved comfortably into the eight-figure gift range in the last year," he said.

"That is not happening at any other university in the world," said Outar. "To get that consistent drumbeat in eight months is remarkable."

Outar credits this support with the U of A's determination to make good on its ambition of becoming a top 20 public research institutions by 2020.

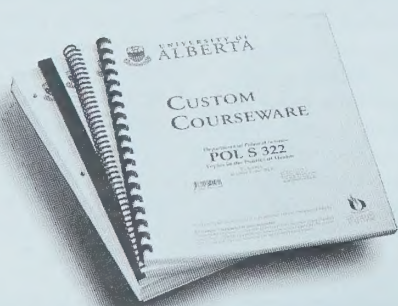
"President Samarasekera said to me in an early conversation that the U of A had one of the best leadership teams in Canada, if not the entire world," said Outar. "Having spent a great deal of time in some of the leading universities in the world, it is clear to me that the leadership acumen on campus is very high."

"For fundraising, where part of the challenge is creating confidence by the donor in the institution, having that type of leadership and talent together is a remarkable accomplishment." ■

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"Life in Reverse" (<http://thirdstorm.tv/life-in-reverse/blog/>) is a documentary series and blog following the journey of two University of Alberta grads who strive to find themselves and new perspectives, on their voyage to Nicaragua where they plan to follow their dream of building the ultimate surf home. With cameras and boards in tow, two novice surfers set out to live a surfing dream, taking viewers along through the challenges, perils, and adventures of the journey. Follow their blog for chuckles, excellent music and quirky product recommendations, as well as savvy travel advice such as, "If you've never gone 'Clamming' before, please know that you will not feast on seafood like a King. In fact, you probably won't feast at all. Remember when you used to think your best friend's mom was easy? She's not. Same scenario..."

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Chapter 9: A new beginning
Chapter 10: A new beginning

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Chapter 3: Chasing the sun
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Raquel Maurier

Fruit fly researcher finds mutation that causes restricted mobility

A researcher and his team in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta have discovered the root cause of how a genetic mutation prevents muscles from attaching to each other, leading to limited mobility issues.

Andrew Simmonds, an associate professor of cell biology, has been working in his lab to determine the impact of mutations in certain genes that perform similar functions in both

people and fruit flies. John Bell, a professor in biological sciences, started researching the topic 15 years ago with a team that included Simmonds as a graduate student. When Bell recently retired, Simmonds and other team members decided to continue the research.

"We said the work was too valuable to not keep going," says Simmonds, who, along with his graduate student Hua Deng, originally looked at how mutations in a specific gene could lead to congenital heart defects. However, when he made certain

mutations in the gene, not only did it cause problems in the heart, but also caused musculoskeletal and mobility issues.

Simmonds says that by uncovering mutations that cause these developmental defects in the fruit flies, physicians can look for similar mutations when diagnosing genetic diseases in people that affect mobility and muscles. He hopes other researchers will take these results forward and, ultimately, that treatments might be developed to target the effects of this mutated gene. Half the battle of

discovering a treatment for any condition, he says, is to first identify the cell, protein or gene that is causing the health problem in the first place.

Bell notes that basic science research is crucial because it builds the foundation for additional research.

"It's curiosity-driven research. It is building the foundation for applied research. In this case the research has spin-offs for human medical research."

The results of the team's work were recently published in *Molecular Biology of the Cell*, a journal of the American Society of Cell Biology. ■

U of A paves way for higher education in Croatia

Michael Davies-Venn

The University of Alberta and the Alberta government have signed agreements with the Government of Croatia that will create opportunities for Alberta's education institutions in that country. They establish the Croatian Research Doctoral Fellowship at the U of A's Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies and enhance the university's involvement with Edmonton's Croatian community.

Annette Trimbee, deputy minister, Alberta Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology and Croatia's ambassador to Canada, signed a memorandum of understanding Nov. 9, which the founding director of the Wirth Institute, Franz Szabo, says will ultimately benefit paves the way for higher education institutions in the province.

"A lot of European governments, especially countries that were part of the Eastern Bloc, have legislation that makes it difficult to reach specific agreements with universities and other institutions, unless a broad

government to government framework is there within which that agreement can happen," said Szabo.

"This agreement with the provincial government represents that broad framework."

The agreement comes following negotiations between Szabo and the Croatian government, and Trimbee says the agreement creates important links for Alberta's students and researchers. She notes that the U of A continues to be a leader in creating such opportunities.

"Through this memorandum of understanding, we will be able to share the best resource available to us — our knowledge. Alberta places great emphasis on the international relationships fostered by our post secondary institutions, and we are particularly proud of the U of A. This university is a leader in developing successful international partnerships based upon the highest standards of teaching and research capabilities."

Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Carl Amrhein underscores the role of the U of A in putting Alberta on the international map. He says that the university takes great care in meeting the needs of the ministry and the province and that the Wirth Institute—Canada's only such institute—has been

meeting its local, national and international mandate since it was established more than a decade ago to raise the profile of Central Europe and Central European Studies in Canada. Amrhein says the agreement with the Croatian government complements a long list of European countries currently supporting the institute.

"The signing of this agreement means that the central European dimension of our institute is now complete and that the U of A can take pride in having all of the Central European countries represented in the flags of the institute," Amrhein said.

Jelena Bulić is the first recipient of the fellowship, and Korać says she will be among a long list of other young researchers from Croatia who will come to Canada to learn and share knowledge, and, most importantly, build relationships.

"One of the most important outcomes from the exchange of students is establishing networks. And from those networks we always hope for stronger personal relations, friendships and people-to-people relations," Korać said. Such is the

kinds of relationships that Szabo says the institute has been building with communities in Alberta and that Amrhein says provides necessary support to the university.

"The support of the community is always important to a university. We have ongoing and very generous support from the people of Alberta, a level of support that is becoming increasingly rare in the world of public universities," Amrhein said. "However, public universities like ours rely on private philanthropy to add that margin of excellence, which allows us to compete effectively around the world with the best kinds of private universities with whom we often compete for faculty, staff and students."

Szabo says community engagement has been one of the hallmarks in building the Wirth Institute. He says genuine dialogue between the university and the communities is important.

"We're listening as much as we're talking with the communities we're engaged with at the institute. The communities value that and it is one of the reasons that they support us," Szabo said.

"We engage with the communities in ways that bring the people to the campus and bring the campus to the people. And that's important to them." ■

people

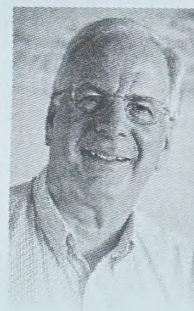
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Out of Africa for the Komodo dragon

Brian Murphy

University of Alberta researchers have unearthed a mysterious link between bones of an ancient lizard found in Africa and the biggest, baddest modern-day lizard of them all, the Komodo dragon, half-a-world away in Indonesia.

Biologists Alison Murray and Rob Holmes say the unique shape of the vertebrae links the 33-million-year-old African lizard fossil with its cousin the Komodo, which has only been around for some 700,000 years.

"The African fossil was found on the surface of a windswept desert," said Holmes. "It's definitely from the lizard genus *Varanus*, and there are more than 50 species alive today, including Komodos and other large lizards."

Holmes says the telltale African vertebrae fossils belonged to a lizard that was about a metre- and-a-half long whose ability to swim may be key to figuring out how more than 30 million years later its ancestors turned up on the other side of the world.

Holmes says the ancient African *Varanus* specimen was found on land that was once the bottom of a river or small lake. "Whether the animals lived



U of A researchers have found links between a 33-million-year-old African lizard and the modern-day Komodo dragon found in Indonesia.

in the water or surrounding land, we don't know, but we do know that some modern day species of *Varanus* are comfortable swimming in fresh water."

The researchers agree that fresh-water swimming wouldn't get the African lizard all the way to Indonesia. Murray says the mystery of how the animals spread deepens when you consider ancient world geography. "From about 100 million years ago until 12 million years ago, Africa was completely isolated, surrounded by ocean, but somehow they got out of Africa during that period," said Murray. "That's why this paper is important; because there was no known land connection."

Murray says one unproven theory of how *Varanus* moved out of Africa

is that, over millions of years, small land masses or micro-plates may have moved from one place to another, carrying their fauna with them.

The work of the U of A researchers and various co-authors runs counter to some prevailing theories about the origins of some ancient fossil types found in Africa, including *Varanus* lizards and some fresh-water fish. "The assumption for several types of ancient African fossils is that the animals didn't originate in Africa but came there from Asia," says Holmes. "But the fossil record of *Varanus* shows exactly the opposite path of migration."

The work of Murray and Holmes and various co-authors was published in the journal *Palaentology*. ■

Writing mentor finds his inner extravert

Geoff McMaster

While teaching for the first time as a PhD student, Rob Desjardins was struck by an epiphany: he wasn't an introvert after all.

"I thought I was that person who loved to read and write and be alone among stacks of books," says the recent doctoral graduate in history. "I never thought of myself as an extrovert, or a teacher, ever before. But it turned out that's where my primary passion lay."

"I learned that I'm much more of a social person than I thought. It was the interaction and feedback from other people that really stimulated me. Something I thought I'd find nerve-racking—the teaching—turned out to be the absolute highlight of the experience."

When a job opened up in the University of Alberta's Academic Support Centre, helping other graduate students through the grueling process of writing and defending their scholarly work, Desjardins leapt in and soon fell in love with the mentoring process.

"I took on this job about eight months before finishing my degree," he says. "It's essentially all built around working with people, either in a one-to-one setting, or in workshops, and I found it every bit as rewarding as teaching history classes."

Because he survived the doctoral hero's journey himself, producing a study of a 15th-century crusading chronicle written in the French Court of Burgundy, he says he can relate to those various, sometimes overwhelming, writing anxieties students bring his way.

Desjardins is, quite simply, a lifeline for the drowning graduate student. In addition to helping students from all disciplines on campus tame the

unwieldy thesis beast, he guides them through funding proposals, conference papers and strategies for satisfying defense committees. He also runs workshops in writing literature reviews, "overcoming procrastination and writer's block," and writing the scholarly abstract.

It doesn't hurt that he spent four years as a communications officer for the Faculty of Arts while chipping away at his master's degree, responding to any number of writing demands on deadline.

"I had a conversation with the dean of arts at the time, Daniel Woolf, and told him I love this

work but also have a passion for history and the humanities," he says. "I told him I felt like I've been working in the ice cream shop serving up the ice cream, and I'd like to taste some myself for a change."

staff spotlight

A graduate of the U of A's English program, he first started taking courses in history for personal enrichment and quickly met U of A historian Andrew Gow, "a very colourful, articulate historian," and a major inspiration for his own academic path.

Desjardins hasn't closed the door on seeking an academic appointment, but he admits "there's been this gradual siren's song" to do the kind of mentoring he is doing now.

"The one-on-one consultations, when a person really starts getting into their research, comparing what other theses have looked like and anticipating what their supervisors want to see—every one of those experiences is different. You can't plan for them, and it's so interesting and rewarding."

To find out more about Graduate Resources at the U of A, or to register in workshops, visit ualberta.ca/ascnr. ■



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Researchers put heart into transplant-predictor technology

Quinn Phillips

Pathologists around the world could soon better predict the outcome of a heart transplant, thanks to technology developed at the University of Alberta.



Michael Mengel holds the future for assessing heart-transplant biopsies.

Michael Mengel, a pathology researcher with the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, has found a new way to assess heart-transplant biopsies by looking at a patient's 54,000 genes. This is extraordinarily important in heart-transplant patients because the successful outcome is based completely on a biopsy, whereas other organ-transplants detectors can watch for other measurements.

It's hoped this technology and process will become a standard of care and further improve patient care within the next three to five years, says Mengel.

Using what is called gene-chip technology, Mengel can look at all 54,000 human genes in a heart-transplant biopsy. Then, by using software algorithms developed by the team at the Alberta Transplant Applied Genomics Centre, the data from the

genes can be reduced to a dozen single numbers, all of which are necessary to diagnosis and assess prognosis of transplant patients.

"This system of molecular annotation to predict prognosis is better than anything else available currently," said Mengel. "We get more information out of the tissue than we were able to before reading all the genes."

As a current standard of care, pathologists use a microscope that allows them to assess single cells in the diseased tissue. The problem is, pathologists can see tissue lesions but can't see finer details like the difference between tissue injury and rejection. With Mengel's new approach, they can go beyond the microscope and assess changes in the molecules in a tissue that help pathologists tell the difference between certain disease processes. Based on such improved

diagnosis, physicians can start appropriate treatment earlier, which will further improve a patient's long-term outcome after heart transplantation.

"Molecules also give mechanistic insight and can help to discover new drug targets," says Mengel, whose work was published recently in the *American Journal of Transplantation*.

Philip Halloran, the director of the Alberta Transplant Applied Genomics Centre and a member of the editorial board for the *American Journal of Transplantation*, has worked in transplant immunology for more than 30 years. Recently, the renowned group published work with gene chips and kidney transplants showing that molecules could better predict outcome than any other clinical or pathological parameter.

The transplant genomics group is getting close to having gene chip diag-

nostics used worldwide in clinics for both types of transplant patients. The next trial, which will begin in 2011, will be an international multi-centre validation trial for this work. The group will send this new type of biopsy results to transplant physicians across the United States, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom and get feedback on the process, its efficiency and the utility of the data in a clinical setting.

Mengel is optimistic that in a few years, pathologists and transplant doctors elsewhere will start using the process he and his team have developed. "That time frame sounds like a long time for an individual patient, but in terms of device development in the health-care industry, it is a very short period. It's not any more research; it's already application in real patients." ■

The unlimited future of biofuels presented for all to SEE

Jamie Hanlon

Imagine pulling up to your local service station and having to decide whether to fill up with tree bark, wood chips or straw.

It may be slightly more complicated than that, and the economically viable scale of technology has not developed to that point yet, but David Stuart's work is taking us one step closer. On Nov. 5, Stuart discussed the concept of developing new technologies to produce advanced biofuels and his research into these areas as the

next presentation in the "SEE The Research at Work" series in the Stollery Executive Development Centre at the Alberta School of Business.

Stuart's work revolves around manipulating structures in microbial organisms like yeast, to produce renewable fuel sources such as butanol and isobutanol, two types of alcohol that can be used in regular gasoline-powered vehicles. Stuart says that his lab is also looking at producing these two chemicals from agricultural and municipal wastes, and that the thought of alternative fuel use in the not-too-

distant future is not as far-fetched as it would seem.

"We normally think about these as waste products, but there are technologies for making those into fermentable materials that can be used by yeast to make alcohols or bio-diesel-type materials," he said.

Economically, Stuart notes, that production of those two alcohols would not be as cheap as petroleum-derived products such as gasoline or diesel. However, he says, they do have advantages that petroleum-based products do not: they are wholly renewable and the process of production follows a cyclical nature that does not exist with gas or diesel-burning engines.

"You start off with butanol. We burn it, carbon goes into the air. Plants use the carbon to make biomass, which is used to make butanol," said Stuart. "Depending on how efficient you are about collecting, harvesting and processing that biomass, it could mean a negative balance—more carbon is pulled out of the air than is put in."

Overall, Stuart says it's important

for people to recognize that there are more advanced forms of biofuels than those that are currently available and that do not require the use of food sources for production, unlike ethanol. Adapting to these fuels when they become readily available would not require any special mechanical adaptation to vehicles or blending or dilution with petroleum products. Further, "those things are here now. It's just an issue of how much can we produce, how efficiently can we do it," said Stuart.


While the production of butanol and isobutanol is not near a level where it is competitive cost-wise with gasoline, Stuart says as systems and processes improve, that circumstance may change. Further, the development of integrated bio-refinement, or fractionating a biomass product to maximize its use, also means that not all the economic eggs would be placed into fuel-resource basket.

Stuart uses trees as an example of a product that can undergo integrated bio-refinement. "As the technologies for degrading ligno-cellulose and the uses of lignin—the polymer in tree wood that's very difficult to do anything with—im-

proves, you've got enormous biomass that you can do all kinds of wonderful things with, including making ethanol and butanol," said Stuart. "Our technology is not there, but as it gets there, we'll be in a very powerful position."


Stuart says this venture has two potential downsides, one of which is that these waste products are returned to the soil to facilitate growth. However, if the byproducts from resource extraction—nitrogen and phosphorus, for example—are put back into the ground, this issue is largely mitigated. The larger challenge, he says, lies in the issue of resource allocation and use; in other words, how much land and agricultural material are we willing to use to produce the fuels that will allow us to live the lifestyle we currently have.

"We [would be] using large swaths of land; not for food, but stuff to drive our cars with. That could have a pretty serious economic impact on the population," Stuart said. "Yes, we can use ligno-cellulosic materials, but are we going to deforest huge areas to get that stuff? Plant crops like wheat and grasses grow quickly, but trees don't." ■



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U of A eyeing its own rocketry course

Brian Murphy

University of Alberta students with an eye for space exploration might get a chance to study rocketry right here in Edmonton. For the last year and a half, the U of A has been sending a few lucky students to week-long rocketry boot camps in Norway. The success of that program ignited a proposal by U of A researchers to start their own homegrown, introductory rocket science course.

"We're putting together a plan for a one-term, laboratory-based course that could kick off in January 2012," said Dave Miles, a master's of science student. "The students would design and build sophisticated instruments here at the U of A and then launch them in Norway as part of a science payload."

In 2009, the U of A partnered up with the University of Oslo and the Andøya Rocket Range. So far, four U of A students have attended the week-long training and launch camps, referred to as the "Canada-Norway Student Sounding Rocket Exchange



The U of A has been sending a students to week-long rocketry boot camps in Norway.

Program." The Andøya Rocket Range sits along Norway's North Sea coastline. The program is a partnership between the U of A and the universities of Oslo, Calgary and Saskatchewan.

Miles says the CaNoRock student trainees learned a number of launch roles including the building of simple atmospheric measurement instruments, assessing launch-time weather and predicting the rocket's flight path. The CanoRock program is supported by the U of A's Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund and is undertaken with the financial support of the Cana-

dian Space Agency.

Stephen Portillo, a third-year U of A astrophysics student, just returned from a week at the Norway launch site where he monitored the science data fed back to Earth from the rocket as it reached an altitude above the North Sea.

"It was surreal knowing that this rocket, which we the students made, was nine kilometres up," said Portillo.

Portillo says the proposal for a rocketry course at the U of A would provide great opportunities. "It would be a good complement to physics and engineering students." ■

teaching & learning, learning & teaching

McCalla biologist promotes power of critical thinking

Geoff McMaster

The first thing Gregg Goss tells his students is that 90 per cent of what he knows is wrong. It may not be what wide-eyed undergraduates want to hear from an esteemed professor, but Goss is convinced that dispelling the illusion of certainty is a crucial first step to learning good science.

"We should not be so naïve as to believe what we know today is going to be right," says the biologist, a world expert in aquatic toxicology, co-leader of a \$3.4 million federal research program to investigate the impact of nano-materials on the environment and a 2010 recipient of the U of A McCalla Research Professorship. "It's only right according to what we know today, and that will change over time."

"We should not be so naïve as to believe what we know today is going to be right."

Greg Goss

"That's the beauty of science—it's always in flux," adds Goss. "And it's an exciting thing you want to pass on to students. You don't want them to think all the experiments are done, because that's defeatist."

To drive his point home, Goss hands out published biology papers he knows are wrong and asks the students to find the errors. When they do, their confidence level spikes as they realize the power of critical thinking. In one such exercise his students even uncovered a case of fraud.

"I knew the editor," says Goss. "So I called him up, and the paper was retracted."

Goss describes himself as a tough instructor who gets his introductory courses off the ground with a healthy dose of "shock and awe." The typical fall midterm average hovers at a mediocre 55 per cent, but most students

quickly respond to the high demand and often surprise themselves, he says.

The core of the Goss undergraduate curriculum is animal physiology, and so he has an ambitious project outlined in his McCalla proposal to bring outdated labs (and their underlying assumptions) up to current standards. Especially with the opening of the new Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science, he says, "we'd like to have a new face to interdisciplinary science that involves physiology."

He explains that in recent years biology has been preoccupied with interactions at the molecular level. It is now time, he says, to shift focus back to the "whole organism, figuring out how it acts in a holistic manner. It's really important that we understand animals don't react like cells."

One of Goss' most successful exercises, one in which "it's impossible to cheat," involves describing the physiology of imaginary creatures, such as cartoon characters Pinky and the Brain, the Brain Bug from Starship Troopers or Jabba the Hut of Star Wars fame.



Greg Goss is a leading expert in aquatic toxicology.

Using a mashup video, Goss introduces the subject of the assignment along with detailed environmental data that place limits on its physiology.

In the case of Jabba, says Goss, "I had him move from a fetal form in the water to an air-breathing form. As you move from one form to another, it creates differences in blood/oxygen transport capacities, how you deal with carbon dioxide, heat and water balance. From that they can predict or hypothesize how life would have

evolved or needs to evolve in a particular manner, given those constraints."

Goss' passion is clearly contagious. He has what he calls a "very successful undergraduate component" in his own research, with "at least three or four, if not five or six, undergraduate students come through my lab. And I conduct fairly high-level experimentation."

"I want my students to be the best, I want them to think, and I want them hesitant to accept anything, because questioning is the heart of science." ■

Feather marks education grad's new journey

Bev Betkowski

When Sean Lessard crossed the stage to accept his master's degree in education from the University of Alberta last week, he received an eagle feather as part of the ceremony.

Lessard says the feather is almost more precious than the degree itself, because it represents a personal journey for him, and for each of the Aboriginal and Métis graduates who also received feathers or, in the case of Métis students, sashes.

For Lessard, a member of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation in Saskatchewan, the feather not only marks his own achievements in university, but may also help others to reach for higher education.

As an Aboriginal educational consultant with Edmonton Public Schools, Lessard hopes the youth he works with will draw meaning from

the feather and venture on to their own journeys in the post-secondary world.

"Eagles represent balance and wisdom, and I hope the kids see that too."

The U of A has included the feather in its convocations for many years and this past spring added sashes for Métis graduates. Elders are on stage at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium as each student graduates, and before the event, usually meet with the students to share the significance of the gifts they are about to take into their hands.

"It's a treasure they'll always keep in their personal lives," said Marge Friedel, an elder with the U of A's Aboriginal Student Services Centre. Friedel, who is of Métis heritage, advises new graduates on how to honour and care for their feathers and sashes.

"The eagle is one of the creatures



Sean Lessard, who graduated last week, is a member of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation in Saskatchewan.

that is so totally honoured because he goes closest to the Creator. If you pray to the eagle, the message will get there." Its feathers are, therefore, held in high esteem and have to be earned, she noted.

"The eagle is known for wisdom, courage and honesty, all qualities of the Creator that we can follow as role models."

The multi-coloured woven sashes given to Métis students reflect their mixed Aboriginal and European ancestry, and the resourcefulness of the early voyageurs who settled Canada,

and remind the graduates to be proud of their pioneering ancestors. "The sashes were used to carry things; [they were used] as belts to keep the men's coats closed, even to repair their carts," Friedel said.

Today, the sashes would be worn to special events with pride "to signify who you are."

Friedel hopes that more students request a feather or sash for their convocations. "Life becomes busy for them as graduation nears, and they may not know to contact us to apply." To receive a feather or sash at con-

vocation, students must contact the Aboriginal Student Services Centre.

A total of 10 students requested feathers or sashes at this week's convocation; three will receive sashes and seven will be gifted with eagle feathers, said Shana Dion, manager of the centre. The ceremony helps them connect with their roots and builds the self-confidence they need to move forward in life, she said.

"At the end of their educational journeys here at the U of A, we want them to be proud of their accomplishments and who they are." ■



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news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the research stories that recently appeared on ExpressNews, the U of A's online news source, and other campus news sources. To read more, go to www.expressnews.ualberta.ca.

Education marks alumnus' sacrifice for Canada

This year, Remembrance Day held a bit more meaning for the University of Alberta's Faculty of Education. It was the first one observed since the death of George Miok, a promising alumnus whose potential was extinguished while serving in Afghanistan last December.

However a new scholarship bearing his name, the Sergeant George R. Miok Memorial Scholarship, ensures that his name and his passion for teaching will be remembered within the faculty in perpetuity. Neil Hayes, the faculty's director of development, says that the Miok family, the driving force behind the scholarship, derive a sense of hope that their son—and his sacrifice—will never be forgotten, thanks to this award.

"George's mom, Anna, finds some solace in the fact that his memory will live on forever," said Hayes. "His name will live on through the university and through the lives of students that receive this award. They need to know why the scholarship happened and where it came from."

Miok, who served with the 41 Combat Engineer Regiment, joined the military in 1998 while still in high school. He continued to serve while pursuing his education degree but took a break from his studies to voluntarily serve on a tour of duty in Bosnia in 2002. In 2006, one year after convoking with a degree in secondary education, he volunteered for his first tour of duty in Afghanistan. Miok was serving his second tour in Afghanistan when he, three other soldiers and a journalist were killed by an improvised explosive device.

Since the scholarship's creation, donations have poured in from across Canada, including from the students and teachers of Parkland School Division and the Alberta Teachers' Association.

"He was very big on the fact that Canada gave his family huge opportunities, so he wanted to give something back to Canada," Hayes said. "I think he saw teaching, like his service in the military, as a service to the country. I think that he saw them as a way to give back." For more information about the Sergeant George R. Miok Memorial Scholarship, please contact Neil Hayes at 780-492-3680 or neil.hayes@ualberta.ca.

Business proflands on Edmonton Top 40 Under 40 list

School of Retailing Director Kyle Murray has been selected as *Avenue Magazine's* 2010 Top 40 Under 40.

The Top 40 Under 40 is a list that recognizes individuals who are enriching Edmonton in various ways. Being younger than 40 is the only specific criterion to make the list. Other than that, passion, hard work and a drive to make Edmonton a better place is what brings the diverse individuals together.

Murray landed on the list because of his contributions to the school. At 37, after having spent only two years at the school within the Alberta School of Business, Murray has helped raise \$7 million and the profile of the retailing program.

"I think the biggest impact that I have is through the students I teach directly," he told *Avenue*.

Advisory review committee seeks input

Lorne Babiuk, vice-president (research), has advised President Indira Samarasekera that he would like to stand for a second term of office. In consultation with the chair of the board of governors, Brian Heidecker, Samarasekera has asked that an advisory review committee for vice-president (research) be struck. University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online provide that members of the university community have an opportunity to contribute to the review process. Individuals are welcome to express their views on the priorities of the vice-president (research), including current issues, leadership and the future direction of the Office of the Vice-President (Research).

An anonymized summary of the feedback will be provided to Babiuk during the review process. President Samarasekera invites you to submit your comments and/or suggestions, in confidence, by 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 10 to her, care of Jackie Wright, secretary to the Advisory Review Committee, at 3-1 University Hall. She can be reached by phone at 780-492-9592, by fax at 780-492-9265 or via email at jackie.wright@ualberta.ca. Responsibility for the administration of the review process is housed in the Office of the President. Please note that the membership of the advisory review committee will be confirmed by Dec. 23, and posted on the president's website at www.president.ualberta.ca.

Virus mutation may hold key to cancer treatment

A recent PhD graduate whose key work was done in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta has received a prestigious award from the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies for his research that suggests a specific type of mutant poxvirus could be used to treat cancer.

Don Gammon and his colleagues worked in the lab of David Evans, chair of the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology. In the course of their work on poxviruses, the researchers discovered that a specific mutant poxvirus could be effective in treating cancer because the virus replicates only in cancerous cells, not healthy cells. The team has already filed a patent on the discovery.

"If a patient had a malignant tumour that spread throughout the body, possibly these viruses would be able to replicate in a tumour in one part of the body, eliminate that tumour, then spread from that tumour through the bloodstream to another tumour site and kill that tumour as well. That is the ultimate goal in general.

"There are already other mutant poxviruses in human clinical trials for treating human cancers. This is the next generation of medicine." ■

Sing, dance, sew – A U of A triple threat

Bev Betkowski

For most university students, school work consumes their time. For Krystle Dos Santos, taking classes was just part of the four-year learning adventure she's capping off at this week's convocation at the University of Alberta.

Once a student by day, budding singer by night, Dos Santos is now a U of A graduate with a flair for fashion and two record albums under her belt.

The 28-year-old songbird crosses the stage Nov. 17 to receive her bachelor of science degree in clothing and textiles from the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, and has just finished her second soul album.

Now she's concentrating on strengthening her music career, and blending her university degree into her dreams.

"I'm excited. Getting this degree hasn't felt like work. It will just lead me to the next door to be opened," Dos Santos said.

Harbouring a passion for both music and fashion, Dos Santos saw no reason she couldn't pursue both at the same time—though it took a few years to reach that realization.

After graduating from Jasper Place High School in Edmonton, Dos Santos studied performing arts in Victoria, B.C. for a year before deciding to "get out into the world." She travelled to England to audition for singing gigs with girl groups, got work here and there, and then returned to Edmonton, unsure of what was next for her.

But she had always been interested

in fashion and put her music career temporarily on hold after she heard about someone who was enrolled in the clothing and textiles program in the U of A's Department of Human Ecology. "They'd learned how to make corsets, and after I looked into the program, it sounded amazing.

"I have always been interested in fashion, especially the idea of repurposing clothing and designing jewelry."

But it wasn't long before her music was back on the scene, filling in whatever time wasn't spent in class. "Music always came naturally to me, even though I was never chasing to too hard. It was just always there."

So, while she fashioned corsets by day, Dos Santos performed after classroom hours, singing at Friday-night gigs, doing summer and Christmas break tours, and eventually even winning a grant from a radio station to record a self-titled album in 2008—her first.

By carefully balancing her workload, Dos Santos managed to keep up with both her studies and her singing.

"When you love what you are doing, you balance it and make it work. I did two or three classes a day, maximum. If you're working, take one course per semester out of the equation and it clears your mind for other things."

Though it would have seemed more logical to take a degree in music instead of fashion, Dos Santos doesn't see it that way.

"I am happier that I didn't take a music degree but took courses that were both business oriented and creatively driven. Plus, having that education behind you is so valuable for common-



Krystle Dos Santos

sense purposes and living day to day, let alone applying it to a career."

Now, even as she concentrates on her music full time (she just finished her second album), Dos Santos says she uses her U of A education every day. "My degree is proving to be such an asset. The marketing classes I took are brilliant for targeting markets and, on the creative side, I can design my own costumes for performances, and I style myself based on what I learned. This will be a real asset when I get to a level where I know I can have a (fashion) team helping me out."

Being the first in her family to earn a university degree makes Dos Santos doubly pleased. "Knowing that you're part of a really good institution like the U of A gives such a feeling of accomplishment and belonging."

Hear Krystle Dos Santos sing by going to her website: <http://www.krystledossantos.com>. ■

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SHOW YOUR CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AND RECEIVE \$5. ADARA HAIR AND BODY STUDIO has teamed up with the Edmonton Food Bank and Santa's Anonymous to help fellow Edmontonians this Christmas season. Drop off an unwrapped gift from Nov. 1 to Dec. 31, and receive a \$5 coupon for services at Adara Hair and Body Studio. *Coupon to be used on services between Jan. 1-Feb. 28, 2011. ADARA HAIR AND BODY STUDIO, 9601 - 82 Ave. Also visit: www.adarahair.com, santasanonymous.ca, edmontonsfoodbank.com.



Winter has arrived on campus.

talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and on ExpressNews at: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.events.ualberta.ca. Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

Until Jan. 14, 2011

The John H. Meier, Jr. Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction Collection. This exhibition presents examples of first editions of all the titles that have won Canada's prestigious Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction from its inception to the present. Noon–4:30 p.m. Rutherford Library.

Until Nov. 30

United Way Coats for Kids Alumni Affairs Collection. If you have a gently used coat that you would like to donate, contact Alumni Affairs at 492-7726. Any size, any style are needed.

Nov. 19

Golden Bears and Panda's Volleyball versus Trinity Western University Spartans. Pandas to follow. 6:30 p.m. Main Gym

Nov. 19–21

Rewriting a Country: Towards a Just and Peaceful Canada. Parkland Institute 14th Annual Fall Conference. For more information, visit: www.parklandinstitute.ca.

Nov. 20

Gateway Centenary Celebration Dinner. The Gateway is 100 years old and is celebrating this momentous occasion with a Centennial Gala Dinner and an evening program featuring a keynote address from the Honourable Peter Lougheed, other speeches, toasts to the decades, storytelling, and general revelry. 5 p.m., Aberhart Centre. www.ualberta.ca/alumni/gateway.

Nov. 21

World Music Sampler. 2 p.m. Con Hall Arts and Convocation Hall.

Nov. 22

Dept of Cell Biology, AHFMR Guest Speaker. Mo Motamedi, instructor in the Department of Cell Biology at Harvard University, presents. 9:30–10:30 a.m., 628 Medical Sciences.

18th Annual E.G. King Memorial Lecture. The Department of Medicine is pleased to announce Stephen Lewis, profes-

sor in Global Health at McMaster University as the 18th Annual E.G. King Memorial Lecturer. All faculty, students and support staff are welcome. Reception to follow. Please RSVP to karen.phillips@ualberta.ca or call 780-248-2003 4–5 p.m. Bernard Snell Hall Auditorium, University of Alberta Hospital.

Nov. 23

Does the Internet Lie? This year, a distinguished panel of U of A scholars will discuss an aspect of humanities computing, an exciting new field that is changing the way research in the humanities is carried out. We are honoured that Chad Gaffield, the president of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, will be attending this year's event. 3–5 p.m., Lister Centre.

Carbon Busters On Energy Efficiency and EcoCommunities. Carbon Busters is developing one of Alberta's first zero-carbon sustainable communities in Leduc County. The intent is to design and develop a pilot sustainable community that will showcase innovative green systems for water, grey water, waste treatment, power generation and green living practices with a focus on research and education for sustainable development. 5:30 p.m., 2-009 Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex.

Nov. 24

"Relation between physical activity level and nutrient adequacy in normal weight men and women: Implications for cancer risk." The Alberta Institute for Human Nutrition is pleased to host Ilona Csizmad, research scientist and epidemiologist in the Division of Population Health and Information at Alberta Health Services later next month. Noon–1 p.m. 1-040 (Oborowsky Degner Seminar Hall) Li Ka Shing Centre for Health Research Innovation.

Nov. 25

Grants 2.0 & the Researcher Home Page. The Research Services Office invites all U of A researchers and staff involved in research administration to attend a detailed introduction on the use of the Grants 2.0 Researcher Home Page. Please register via <http://rsoregistration.ualberta.ca/>

CourseDescription.do?courseid=4621 10:30 a.m.–noon. 2F1.02 University of Alberta Hospital (Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre).

CIUS Seminar Series. "The Implications of Ukrainian Studies in Korea." Presented by Joung Ho Park from the Institute of Russian Studies, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. 3 p.m., 2-27 Athabasca Hall.

Nov. 25

History & Classics Colloquium: Laundering Money and Souls: Usury, Poor Relief and Theology at the Early University of Paris. The Department of History & Classics and The Medieval & Early Modern Institute Present "Laundering Money and Souls: Usury, Poor Relief and Theology at the Early University of Paris," presented by Spencer Young, post-doctoral Mellon Fellow, Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies Papal and royal patronage of the early University of Paris. 3:30–5:30 p.m., 4-5 Alberta School of Business.

Research Forum, Expertise and interactions in online science commenting. 3:30–4:30 p.m. 122 Education South Education Centre, North & South.

Nov. 26

Dept of Cell Biology Friday Seminar Series, AHFMR Visiting Lecturer. Natalie G. Ahn, professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and HHMI, University of Colorado, Boulder, presents "A new route to cell polarity through Wnt5a signaling." Noon–1 p.m., 628 Medical Sciences.

Nov. 29–30

Cameron Library Craft Sale. Annual Cameron Library Craft Sale with free admission and door prizes. 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Nov. 29

Festival of nine lessons and carols for advent and Christmas. A benefit for the U of A Campus Food Bank, Winspear Centre. 7:30 p.m. tickets available at the box office.

Nov. 30

Bob Mills, Consultant to and representative of Plasco Energy Group. Bob Mills will overview the increasingly popular technology for waste management, plasma gasification. This technology holds promising potential to turn toxic waste into synthetic gas. This Syngas can then be used for fuel in internal combustion engines to

generate electricity, and combined with heat recovery systems can be incorporated in co-generation systems. 5:30 p.m. 2-009 Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex.

Dec. 1–3

Workplace Integration of New Nurses – Nursing the Future 2010 Conference. The WINN-NTF Conference provides a forum for managers, educators, mentors, preceptors, faculty, human resources, new graduates, students, government, professional associations and unions to share knowledge, experiences and strategies that promote successful integration of new nurses in the practice setting. For more information, go to www.winn-ntf.com.

Dec. 2

E-Health Symposium 2010: Fast Tracking Health Innovation. For more information, go to www.triabs.ca/triabs/healthsymposium.ca.

CIUS Seminar Series. "Mobility and Security in the EU's Neighbourhood: The Case of Ukraine." Presented by Lyubov Zhyznomirska, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta. 3 p.m. 2-27 Athabasca Hall.

Sent from the trenches



laurels

Secondary education professor **Nancy Melnychuk** has received the R. Tait McKenzie Award of Honour for her commitment to the advancement of health and physical education.

Jennifer Argo, professor in the Alberta School of Business, has won the Association for Consumer Research's Early Career Award for Contributions to Consumer Research. Argo is the first recipient of this new award that honours the contributions of consumer behavior

researchers who received a PhD less than eight years ago.

Margaret-Ann Armour, founder of the Women In Scholarship, Engineering, Science & Technology (WISEST) program for girls and women, was nominated as a Champion of Change, a CBC radio contest to celebrate volunteerism in Canada.

U of A Museums is featuring a wooden plaque, hand-carved by a former U of A student while serving in the military, in an exhibition in the foyer of the Arts Building for the month of November. Believed to have been carved in the trenches, the front of the plaque displays the name of the Princess Patricia's Infantry, its insignia, and the battles fought by the regiment in France prior to 1915. The back of the plaque (inset) is signed by 20 U of A students fighting with the PPCLI in France. Only three of these soldiers returned home.



THE U OF A'S BIG SPLASH

Photos by Michael Davies-Venn

Dean of the Alberta School of Business Mike Percy (top left), took the first plunge to kick off the fifth annual JDC West Chillin' for Charity fundraiser for the United Way Nov. 17. Dozens of cannonballers braved the frigid weather to take a dip in Arctic waters in front of hundreds of onlookers.



the
BackPage